Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 19, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010 Legislative Priorities

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve legislative priorities for the 2010 Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These items have been reviewed and proposed by President Bradshaw and his Cabinet, and now need approval by the FGCU Board of Trustees prior to the 2010 Legislative Session.

Supporting Documentation Included: FGCU 2010 Legislative Priorities

Prepared by: Director of Government Relations Jennifer Goen

Legal Review by: N/A

Submitted by: President Wilson Bradshaw
1. Enrollment Growth Funding

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) continues to provide access to higher learning and currently has over 11,000 currently enrolled students. The rapid enrollment growth realized by FGCU in just eleven short years confirms the State’s decision to create FGCU as a regional state university in Southwest Florida. As FGCU continues to attract a diverse student population and provide access to education, the need for enrollment growth funding will continue to be significant. FGCU’s projected growth for 2010-2011 is 8.7%, but due to the continued State budget constraints, our funded enrollment growth request will remain flat.

- FTE Request 5373

2. Public Capital Outlay (PECO) Funding

In response to FGCU’s rapid growth, the demand to provide adequate classrooms, laboratories and office space will continue to be one of the university’s priorities. As we strive to offer a world class education, buildings and infrastructure will be necessary to meet the needs of our expanding student population as well as continue to attract talented and qualified faculty. In addition, FGCU remains highly effective with space utilization in our current buildings, and this will continue with the addition of any new space.

Therefore, FGCU’s PECO request for 2010-2011 will be:

- Utilities and Infrastructure $1,940,779

3. Courtelis Matching Funds

FGCU is fortunate to have both State-funded and donor-funded facilities that are critical to support the academic, recreational, residential and support needs of our campus community.

Since FGCU’s inception, our Southwest Florida community has generously donated funds which have been matched by the State through the Courtelis Matching Funds Program. This matching program has been an integral part of our ability to build the necessary foundation for our campus that might not have otherwise been possible. This program provides an excellent opportunity for the community to contribute to the success of FGCU and to become a part of the university’s historic moments.

Therefore, FGCU’s 2010-2011 request will be:

- Courtelis Matching Funds $1,455,000
4. Major Matching Gifts

FGCU embraces the opportunity and responsibility to respond to the interest of its ever-growing student body and to the needs of the region by expanding existing degree programs and establishing new academic experiences. Again, through the generous donations of our Southwest Florida community, the State’s major matching gift program allowed FGCU to attract and retain the finest faculty by providing the funding to pursue independent research and other scholarly activities.

Therefore FGCU’s 2010-2011 request will be:

- Major Matching Gifts $6,056,664